

Major Work Stoppages

Technical Note

Major work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and include worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppages."

Data for the number of workers involved and days idle include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as a result of material or service shortages in other establishments. The number of workers idled in any stoppages represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppages.

In the monthly tables, days idle during the reference period for any one stoppage is calculated by adding the number of days lost by each affected worker during the month from the beginning date through the ending date of the stoppage. In addition, days idle is shown as a total for all stoppages in effect during the month.

In the historical table, cumulative figures for days idle for

the year or year-to-date are shown for various reference periods. Total days idle is the sum of the days idle for all stoppages in effect during the reference period. In addition, days idle is shown as a percent of estimated working time for all stoppages that occurred during the reference period. Estimated working time is computed by multiplying average total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period. (Total employment excludes private households, forestry, and fishery employees, and is taken from *Employment and Earnings* published by the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics.) Days idle as a percent of estimated working time lost is calculated by dividing the total days idle for all stoppages occurring during the reference period by the estimated working time for all employees in the economy during that period.

Additional information

For more detailed data, contact Work Stoppages, Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE., Room 4175, Washington, DC 20212-0001.

Telephone: (202) 691-6275

E-mail: Cimini_M@bls.gov

Internet: <http://www.bls.gov/cba/home.htm>

TABLE D-1. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-2001**

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved ¹		Days idle ²	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ³
1947	270	—	1,629	—	25,720	(⁴)
1948	245	—	1,435	—	26,127	.22
1949	262	—	2,537	—	43,420	.38
1950	424	—	1,698	—	30,390	.26
1951	415	—	1,462	—	15,070	.12
1952	470	—	2,746	—	48,820	.38
1953	437	—	1,623	—	18,130	.14
1954	265	—	1,075	—	16,630	.13
1955	363	—	2,055	—	21,180	.16
1956	287	—	1,370	—	26,840	.20
1957	279	—	887	—	10,340	.07
1958	332	—	1,587	—	17,900	.13
1959	245	—	1,381	—	60,850	.43
1960	222	—	896	—	13,260	.09
1961	195	—	1,031	—	10,140	.07
1962	211	—	793	—	11,760	.08
1963	181	—	512	—	10,020	.07
1964	246	—	1,183	—	16,220	.11
1965	268	—	999	—	15,140	.10
1966	321	—	1,300	—	16,000	.10
1967	381	—	2,192	—	31,320	.18
1968	392	—	1,855	—	35,367	.20
1969	412	—	1,576	—	29,397	.16
1970	381	—	2,468	—	52,761	.29
1971	298	—	2,516	—	35,538	.19
1972	250	—	975	—	16,764	.09
1973	317	—	1,400	—	16,260	.08
1974	424	—	1,796	—	31,809	.16
1975	235	—	965	—	17,563	.09
1976	231	—	1,519	—	23,962	.12
1977	298	—	1,212	—	21,258	.10
1978	219	—	1,006	—	23,774	.11
1979	235	—	1,021	—	20,409	.09
1980	187	—	795	—	20,844	.09
1981	145	—	729	—	16,908	.07
1982	96	—	656	—	9,061	.04
1983	81	—	909	—	17,461	.08
1984	62	—	376	—	8,499	.04
1985	54	—	324	—	7,079	.03
1986	69	—	533	—	11,861	.05
1987	46	—	174	—	4,481	.02
1988	40	—	118	—	4,381	.02
1989	51	—	452	—	16,996	.07
1990	44	—	185	—	5,926	.02
1991	40	—	392	—	4,584	.02
1992	35	—	364	—	3,989	.01
1993	35	—	182	—	3,981	.01
1994	45	—	322	—	5,021R	.02
1995	31	—	192	—	5,771	.02
1996	37	—	273	—	4,889	.02
1997	29	—	339	—	4,497	.01
1998	34	—	387	—	5,116	.02

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE D-1. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-2001**—Continued

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved ¹		Days idle ²	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ³
1999	17	—	73	—	1,996	0.01
2000	39	40	394	397	20,419	.06
January	0	1	0.0	3.0	60.0	(⁵)
February	1	2	17.0	20.0	298.0	.01
March	2	4	5.7	25.7	327.6	.01
April	6	7	26.7	29.7	272.2	.01
May	2	4	136.9	141.3	3,095.3	.10
June	5	8	11.4	150.8	3,134.0	.10
July	3	6	7.2	146.9	2,804.4	.10
August	6	8	99.2	237.2	4,186.6	.13
September	5	10	20.3R	167.8	3,029.3	.11
October	7	12	60.3	211.6	3,088.6	.11
November	0	3	0.3R	4.5	64.5	(⁵)
December	2	3	8.7	10.3	58.9	(⁵)
2001 ^P	21	22	59.4	62.1	641.5	(⁵)
January	1	2	2.0	4.7	37.1	(⁵)
February	1	1	1.2	1.2	3.6	(⁵)
March	3	4	7.8	9.0	33.4	(⁵)
April	4	5	19.4	20.7	230.5	.01
May	7	8	22.1	23.4	201.6	.01
June	3	5	4.7	9.0	73.2	(⁵)
July	2	3	2.2	3.3	62.1	(⁵)

¹ Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the reference period.

² Days idle includes all stoppages in effect during the reference period.

³ Agricultural and government employees are included in the calculation of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and

fishery employees are excluded.

⁴ Data not available.

⁵ Less than .005.

P Preliminary Data.

NOTE: Dash indicates no data for this category.

TABLE D-2. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, May 2001^P**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Comair Interstate Airline Pilots Association		3/26/01		3,300 ³	49,800
Seattle public schools Seattle, WA National Education Association (Ind.)		5/1/01	5/1/01	6,900	6,900
Des Moines Construction Council Des Moines, IA Carpenters (Ind.)		5/1/01	5/5/01	1,200	4,800
Associated General Contractors and others Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN Bricklayers		5/1/01	5/29/01	1,000	20,000
Connecticut nursing homes ⁴ Connecticut Service Employees		5/2/01	5/24/01	4,600	69,700
Associated General Contractors and others Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN Laborers		5/7/01	5/11/01	4,000	20,000
Weyerhaeuser Company Washington and Oregon Western Pulp and Paper Workers (Carpenters -Ind.)		5/9/01	5/31/01	1,400	22,400
Peoples Gas Company Chicago, IL Gas Workers Union		5/19/01		1,000	8,000
Stoppages beginning in month	7			22,100 ⁵	
Stoppages in effect in month	8			23,400	201,600

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

³ The Comair stoppage idled 1,300 workers in March, 2001. An additional 2,000 workers were idled in May.

⁴ The stoppage began on May 1, but did not involve 1,000 or more

workers until May 2. On May 25, the number of workers idled fell below 1,000.

⁵ Includes 2,000 additional workers idled by the Comair work stoppage in May.

P = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-3. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, June 2001^P**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Comair Interstate Airline Pilots Association		3/26/01	6/14/01	3,300	33,000
Peoples Gas Company Chicago, IL Gas Workers Union		5/19/01	6/8/01	1,000	6,000
Minnesota Hospital HealthCare Partnership Minneapolis, MN Minnesota Nurses Association		6/3/01	6/23/01	1,400	21,000
Northwest Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association Seattle, WA Carpenters (Ind.)		6/12/01	6/18/01	2,200	11,000
Midwest Generation Company Chicago, IL Electrical Workers (IBEW)		6/28/01		1,100	2,200
Stoppages beginning in month	3			4,700	
Stoppages in effect in month	5			9,000	73,200

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

P = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-4. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, July 2001^P**

Organizations involved and location ¹	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Midwest Generation Company Chicago, IL Electrical Workers (IBEW)		6/28/01		1,100	23,100
Northern California Painters and Finishing Contractors San Francisco, CA area Painters		7/1/01	7/30/01	1,000	21,000
Painters and Decorators Joint Committee Oakland, CA area Painters		7/1/01	7/23/01	1,200	18,000
Stoppages beginning in month	2			2,200	
Stoppages in effect in month	3			3,300	62,100

¹ Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

P = Preliminary data.